Discussion. In answer to the notice issued by the Central Union Board of School Trustees about thirty tax-payers of the district assembled in the Centre building last Monday evening. The meeting was called to order by the District Clerk, and Mr. H. B. Sheldon was selected to act as chairman and Mr. Wm. A. Baldwin, secretary

The object of the meeting was briefly stated by the secretary. It was agreed to dispense with the formal reading of the annual report, printed copies of which were furnished to all present.

Mr. Chas. M. Davis was the first citizen to address the meeting, saying that he would like to call attention to a few statements in the report, and ask for information with regard to them. He desired to know how much time in the High School is devoted to the study of natural sciences: The District Clerk answered the ques-

tion in a general way and said the Trustees were not prepared to go into details at this time in answering questions of that nature. He thought the study of the sciences was receiving more and more attention in the school.

The question was again urged, How much time is devoted to studies in science? It was stated in reply that a consultation with the Principal of the School would he necessary in order to give the exact

Mr. Davis offered a number of resolu tions to the effect that an additional male assistant should be employed in the High School at a salary of \$1,000, chiefly for the purpose of giving instruction in natural sciences; that necessary apparatus be purchased, and that an addition to the appropriation be made to meet the expense

The resolutions being seconded, an ani mated discussion took place. The mover of the resolutions supported them by stating that Bloomfield High School had bu two teachers, and not more than \$150 worth of philosophical appartus, while in East Orange and Montclair the schools were well-equipped with apparatus, and with teachers.

replied to by the District Clerk, who said the apparatus of the schools was worth much more than was represented by the speaker, and that there were three teachers in the High School instead of two, and he claimed that the exhibition of scholarship at the recent graduating exercises was not excelled by any schools of East Orange or Montclair.

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Then attention was drawn to the fact that a much greater number of scholars attended the High Schools of the towns mentioned than attended the Bloomfield School, and the question was asked why it was so?

Mr. Baldwin said that every inducement and facility was offered for scholars to remain in school and go through High School, which at their option embraces a classical or a scientific course, equal to that of any similar institution. Pupils could not be driven into the High School or forced to stay there. The proportion of those who remained in the school to · complete the course was, however, constantly increasing, and the Trustees were glad to see it, and would progress as fast as the people of the district demanded. The reason of so many boys leaving without entering High School was not because ample teachers and other facilities were not provided, but simply because they did not care for it.

Rev. Mr. Frissell spoke very earnestly in favor of higher education. He believed that the reason there were so many failures in business was because the business men had not been liberally educated in their youth.

Mr.E. A. Smith, a Trustee, and a New York business man, said that at the age of 15, boys were generally desirous of entering business life. It was the customary age for boys to begin to acquire the elementary principles of business. If they waited until they were 18, they found that boys who began three years younger were so much ahead of them, as all had to commence at the bottom of the ladder.

This view was not endorsed by Rev. Dr. Stubbert, who said that the value of mental training between the ages of 15 and 18 could not be overestimated.

Mr. N. Russell thought the study of bookkeeping ought to occupy a prominent place among the studies, since he had noticed that many boys who left school went to Newark to attend commercial

The Trustees, in reply to these various criticisms said that the course of instruction adopted was founded upon that of one of the most celebrated schools in the country. Attention was called to the fact that scholars from Bloomfield High School were now in attendance at a noted college; that our graduates had acquitted themselves well in their collegiate course, in every case.

There was in Bloomfield, even among the heaviest tax-payers, a difference of opinion in regard to High School education. Some were for almost unlimited progress and expenditure, while others were entirely opposed to it. The Trustees had found that when they favored raising moderate amounts for current expenses, they were commended by both large and small tax-payers. They, therefore, did not think this proposition to expend \$1,000 or \$1,500 more upon teaching in the High School would be endorsed by the District.

In concluding his remarks, the President of the Board of Trustees, Mr. Thomas Oakes, expressed the opinion that Mr. Davis ought to be able to answer his own inquiries as to the work done in the school of the town he lived in, since he had offered resolutions indicating a clear knowledge on his part, and knew so much

about the schools in other towns. This brought the discussion down to a rather delicate point, and to avoid the introduction of personal difficulties, further discussion was brought to close with the withdrawal by Mr. Davis, of his resolutions, presented in the early part of the

The appropriations recommended by the Trustees were then voted upon and carried without opposition. They embrace \$9,500 for current expenses, and \$3,000 for payment of mortgage indebtedness.

Peter Finerty's Fortune.

DID NOT TURN HIS HEAD NOR CAUSE ! TO PORGET HIS POOR BELATIONS. From the St. Donis Globe-Democrat

Peter Finnerty, the semi-million aire, who died suddenly at Wankesha last Tuesday, had a history resembling in many respects that of many other individuals who struck it rich in the golden and silver regions. Fourteen years ago he was doing his best to make a poor farm near Keokuk, Io wa, pay, but mortgage after mortgage sank his hopes out of sight, and at last he was obliged to take to steam boating. He ran for some time as a deck hand on the river, between Keokuk and St. Louis. In 1874 he came West, attracted by the chances of big pay and the possibilities of running across a fortune. He went to work as a miner in San Luis Park, where he remained until the Leadville excitement broke out. Then he crossed the Mosquito Range and became a jobber on Friar Hill. He owned two span of mules and was hauling ore to the

smelters, when he discovered the "Little Chief." Taking the Dillon broth ers in with him they worked the claim until they struck mineral. Almost immeaditely the mine was bonded for a few weeks to a Chicago syndicate, headed by Farwell, who paid \$25,000 down, and were to pay \$300,000 more on the date when the bond expired. In the mean time Finnerty and the Dillions found that they had let mil lions slip by the sale, and they did everything in their power to prevent Chicago parties from their share of the contract. The telegraph wires were repeatedv cut so as to prevent communication

between the Leadville and Chicago ends of the bargain, and that the sellers might get as much as possible out of the mine they put a lot of men to work in it, and gophered it for near-\$50,000 worth of mineral. The Chicagoans appreciated the good thing which they had, and made sure of completing the sale. They sent the \$300,000 balance in greenbacks from Denver by a messenger, who had an escort of six men, headed by the late W. Frank Smith, a Rocky Mountain detective. The party rode to the end of the Denver and South Park Railway, and then took mules across the mountains. They arrived in Leadville at noon of the day for the payment of the money, and it was counted out to Messrs. Finnerty & Dillons in Tabor Bank; and they parted with." Little Chief" forever. Soon after selling "Little Chief" Finnerty disappeared from Leadville. At this time Col. John Atkins of the Rocky Mountain News, who was his intimate and confidential friend, says he had deposited there in bank to his credit over \$100,

During the years he had been away from his former home in Iowa a brother had died, leaving a large family dependent upon the product of a mortgaged farm. A sister on another farm had also a family bereavement, and her financial condition was no better than that of his brother's wife. Unannounced, Peter appeared upon the scene. The story of his sudden wealth had not reached the farm neighborhood in which years before he had struggled a poor, honest hard working farmer. Withou tmaking known the real purpose of his mission, he, under some pretext or other, took the two widows and their children to a neighboring city. Here the little ones were all dressed up in tailor-made clothes, the best money could buy and the older boys and girls each furnished with a suitable gold watch and chain. The astonished children were taken back to their mothers, who were left at the best hotel in the city while Peter went out with the children "for a walk." Their delight and astonishment knew no bounds. Next the women folks were decked out in costly raiment and given elegent gold watches. They protested against the extravagance, and with tears in their eyes said all these fine clothes and gold watches were well enough, but the money they had cost would go far to ward wiping out the mortgages of their farms. With a good-naturn smile Peter told them to never mind the farms, they would be taken care of in good time. Two spans of fine horses, with harness and carriages were next purchased and ordered in front of the hotel, and there inspected

by the astonished families. Peter had not yet got through. He next visited a prominent bank and placed \$5,000 to the credit of each widow, presenting them with bank books and blank checks. By the time Peter had gone this far he was the talk of the city in which this had taken place, but the great-hearted Irishman vas not yet through. With their elegant equipages the entire party set out for their former homes, less than twenty miles. On the way they halted long enough at the county seat, where the mortgages on their farms were paid off and clear deeds handed over to the overjoyed widows, whose rainy eyes and happy hearts spoke louder than words of the most eloquent ora tor. A day or two later Peter left the neighborhood, and in due time put in an appearance at Leadville. He told the story to Col. Atkins as it is here, enjoining him to "make no talk." This was the bright side of his adventures after the sale of the Little Chief.

There is a dark side also. During Finnerty's absence his wife was persuaded into securing a divorce from him, and she married another man. Peter knew this, and his generous treatment of the other folks had in it something of the spirit of Irish revenge, and it aroused the former wife to action. She brought suit against Peter for \$50,000 for the maintenance of his three daughters, aged now respectively 22, 19 and 16 years. The father used to send for the children. who were brought to his hotel when he visited Keokuk. But one day the former Mrs. Finnerty and her lawyers swooped down upon him, and from that time on he was obliged to shun Iowa, and always remained across the

river when he visited that section. Lawyers and detectives were after him everywhere, and wied to make trouble for him, but he at last, through a Catholic priest, secured a release of the children for \$5,000. The children were placed in a seminary at Davenport, where they were kept until six months ago. Then Peter moved them to the Convent of the Sacred Heart in

Finnerty had \$200,000 in United States bonds deposited in St. Louis. ver \$100,000 in two Denver banks, and his ownership of the entire New York mine and three-fourths of the Frenchman and Belgian may be placed at \$200,000 more, so that his estate is worth at least a clean \$500,000. He had gone to St. Louis to sell the New York mine, for which he had an offer of \$100,000. After selling it he was going to retire from business and live quietly in Denver. But, as likely as not, he would have kept on operating right straight along, for he was always saving he would be satisfied when he got another \$100,000. It is not known whether he left a

will, but Dr. O'Reilly told him in St. Louis a week ago Wednesday that he tion, Post office and Telegraph offices, comcould not live long and had better settle up his business. So it may be pos- schools and good markets within ten to twelve emergency as has since arisen. Finnerty was a rather handsome man of Apply by letter, making an appointment on 48, weighing about 170 pounds, dressing well, and paying careful attention to his appearance. He could not read, and had only learned to write his name since coming into his fortune. He did his bookkeeping in his head, had two lawvers-one in Denver and one in Leadville-who were supposed to be a check on each other. He despised all womankind, his wife's action having soured him against the sex.



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